

From: Todd Grigsby
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I'd like to be polite about this, but I can only sum up my opinion in a single sentence as follows: The proposed Microsoft vs. DOJ antitrust settlement is a terrible joke.

Forcing Microsoft to put their operating system into schools is like forcing a beer company to advertise during the Super Bowl. Where is the penalty? The cost to Microsoft of distributing this software comes in revenue not realized by selling the software to the schools, yet this cost is more than repaid in forcing students to become familiar with and use the operating system that will become their OS of choice once they graduate and enter the work force.

I have three better solutions, all of which you've probably already heard:

1. Break MS into an OS company and an office products company. No collusion is allowed between these companies.
2. Force MS to fully disclose the complete Windows API. Every call, every global variable, etc. Also force them to separate Explorer from the OS as they were instructed to do years ago and have failed to do.
3. Instead of having MS install Windows in those schools, have them install new PCs with Linux, new Apples with OSX, new Sun workstations, new Alphas running OpenVMS, etc. Hardware and OS vendors would have X number of days to petition to be included in the list and petitions would be reviewed by a appointed technical panel based on criteria including but not restricted to a minimum 1% of current market share. Schools could choose from the platforms that made the list.

Whatever happens, the idea is to PENALIZE Microsoft, not aid and abet them. The current penalty is itself an injustice.

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